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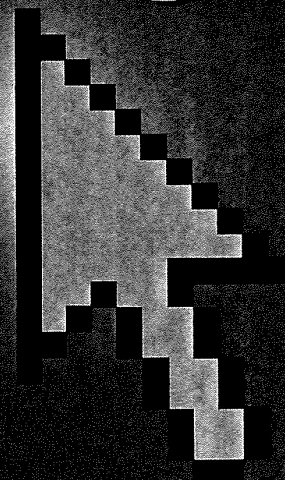ENTRIES

Microsoft
Computer
Dictionary
Fifth Edition

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- *Easy to read, expertly illustrated*
- *Definitive coverage of hardware, software, the Internet, and more!*

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VGA *n.* Acronym for **V**ideo **G**raphics **A**dapter. A video adapter that duplicates all the video modes of the EGA (Enhanced Graphics Adapter) and adds several more. *See also* video adapter. *Compare* EGA.

VHLL *n.* Acronym for very-high-level language. *See* 4GL.

VHSIC *n. See* very-high-speed integrated circuit.

vi¹ *n.* Short for **vi**sual. The first full-screen text editor under UNIX. The vi editor offers many powerful but not very intuitive keyboard commands. It is still in use on UNIX systems, despite the existence of other editors such as Emacs. *See also* editor, UNIX.

vi² *vb.* To edit a file using the vi editor. *See also* vi¹.

VIA *n. See* Virtual Interface Architecture.

VI Architecture *n. See* Virtual Interface Architecture.

video *adj.* Of or pertaining to the visual component of a television signal. In relation to computers, *video* refers to the rendering of text and graphics images on displays. *Compare* audio.

video accelerator *n. See* graphics engine (definition 1).

video adapter *n.* The electronic components that generate the video signal sent through a cable to a video display. The video adapter is usually located on the computer's main system board or on an expansion board, but it is sometimes built into the terminal. *Also called:* video adapter board, video board, video card, video controller, video display adapter.

video adapter board *n. See* video adapter.

video board *n. See* video adapter.

video buffer *n.* The memory on a video adapter that is used to store data to be shown on the display. When the video adapter is in a character mode, this data is in the form of ASCII character and attribute codes; when it is in a graphics mode, the data defines each pixel. *See also* bit image, bit plane, color bits, pixel image.

video capture board *n. See* video capture device.

video capture card *n. See* video capture device.

video capture device *n.* An expansion board that converts analog video signals to digital form and stores them in a computer's hard disk or other mass storage device. Some video capture devices are also capable of converting digital video to analog video for use in a VCR. *Also called:* video capture board, video capture card. *See also* expansion board.

video card *n. See* video adapter.

video clip *n.* A file that contains a short video item, usually an excerpt from a longer recording.

video compression *n.* Reduction of the size of files containing video images stored in digital form. If no compression were done, 24-bit color video at 640 x 480 pixels would occupy almost one megabyte per frame, or over a gigabyte per minute. Video compression can, however, be lossy without affecting the perceived quality of the image. *See also* lossy compression, Motion JPEG, MPEG.

video conferencing *n.* Teleconferencing in which video images are transmitted among the various geographically separated participants in a meeting. Originally done using analog video and satellite links, today video conferencing uses compressed digital images transmitted over wide area networks or the Internet. A 56K communications channel supports freeze-frame video; with a 1.544-Mbps (T1) channel, full-motion video can be used. *See also* 56K, desktop conferencing, freeze-frame video, full-motion video, T1, teleconferencing. *Compare* data conferencing.

video controller *n. See* video adapter.

video digitizer *n.* A device used in computer graphics that uses a video camera, rather than a scan head, to capture a video image and then stores it in memory with the aid of a special-purpose circuit board. *See also* digitize. *Compare* digital camera.

videodisc *n.* An optical disc used to store video images and associated audio information. *See also* CD-ROM.

video display *n.* Any device capable of displaying, but not printing, text or graphics output from a computer.

video display adapter *n. See* video adapter.

video display board *n.* A video adapter implementation using an expansion board rather than the computer's main system board. *See also* video adapter.

video display card *n. See* video display board.

video display metafile *n.* A file containing video display information for the transport of images from one system to another. *Acronym:* VDM.

video display page *n.* A portion of a computer's video buffer that holds one complete screen image. If the buffer can hold more than one page, or frame, screen updates can be completed more rapidly because an unseen page can be filled while another is being displayed.

video display terminal *n. See* VDT.

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video display tube *n. See* CRT.

video display unit *n. See* monitor.

video DRAM *n. See* video RAM.

video driver *n.* Software that provides the interface between the video adapter hardware and other programs, including the operating system. The user can access the video driver to specify the resolution and color-bit depth of images on the monitor during the setup process. *See also* driver, monitor, video adapter.

video editor *n.* A device or program used to modify the contents of a video file.

Video Electronics Standards Association *n. See* VESA².

video game *n. See* computer game.

Video Graphics Adapter or **Video Graphics Array** *n. See* VGA.

video graphics board *n.* A video adapter that generates video signals for displaying graphical images on a video screen.

video look-up table *n. See* color look-up table.

video memory *n.* Memory from which a display image is created, located in the video adapter or video subsystem. If both the video processor and the central processing unit (CPU) have access to video memory, images are produced by the CPU's modification of video memory. Video circuitry normally has priority over the processor when both attempt to read or write to a video memory location, so updating video memory is often slower than accessing main memory. *See also* video RAM.

video mode *n.* The manner in which a computer's video adapter and monitor display on-screen images. The most common modes are text (character) mode and graphics mode. In text mode, characters include letters, numbers, and some symbols, none of which are "drawn" on screen dot by dot. In contrast, graphics mode produces all screen images, whether text or art, as patterns of pixels (dots) that are drawn one pixel at a time.

videophone *n.* A device equipped with camera and screen, as well as a microphone and speaker, capable of transmitting and receiving video signals as well as voice over a telephone line. Using conventional telephone lines, a videophone can transmit only freeze-frame video. *See also* freeze-frame video.

video port *n.* A cable connector or port on a computer that outputs video signals to a monitor.

video RAM *n.* A special type of dynamic RAM (DRAM) used in high-speed video applications. Video RAM uses separate pins for the processor and the video circuitry, providing the video circuitry with a back door to the video RAM. The video circuitry can access the video RAM serially (bit by bit), which is more appropriate for transferring pixels to the screen than is the parallel access provided by conventional DRAM. *Acronym:* VRAM. *See also* dynamic RAM.

video server *n.* A server designed to deliver digital video-on-demand and other broadband interactive services to the public over a wide area network.

video signal *n.* The signal sent from a video adapter or other video source to a raster display. The signal can include horizontal and vertical synchronization signals, as well as image information. *See also* composite video display, RGB monitor.

video terminal *n. See* terminal (definition 1).

videotex *n.* An interactive information retrieval service designed to be accessed by subscribers over telephone lines. Information can be displayed on a home television screen or a videotex terminal. Subscribers use keypads to choose from menus and to request specific screens, or pages. *Also called:* videotext.

videotext *n. See* videotex.

Vienna Definition Language *n. See* VDL.

view¹ *n.* **1.** The display of data or an image from a given perspective or location. **2.** In relational database management systems, a logical table created through the specification of one or more relational operations on one or more tables. A view is equivalent to a divided relation in the relational model. *See also* relational database, relational model.

view² *vb.* To cause an application to display information on a computer screen.

viewer *n.* An application that displays or otherwise outputs a file in the same way as the application that created the file. An example of a viewer is a program to display the images stored in GIF or JPEG files. *See also* GIF, JPEG.

viewport *n.* In computer graphics, a view of a document or an image. A viewport is similar to the view in a window, but usually only part of the document or graphical image is visible. *Compare* window.

vine *n.* A means of distributing audiotape copies that is similar to a tape tree. Because vine tapes are digital in for-

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copied down the vine 1
Compare tape tree.

Vines *n.* A UNIX-bas
from Banyan Systems

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Compare real addr

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